ETCETERA 8

Brave And Bold 100 is a very special issue. It stars Batman, Robin, The Black Canary, Green Lantern, and Green Arrow in a story entitled "Warrior In A Wheelchair". The art is by Jim Aparo who will do the book regularly starting with that issue. Rounding out the issue is a reprint of a Deadman story.

Brave And Bold 101 stars Batman and Metamorpho. Oh yes...last summer's Brave And Bold/Super DC Giant did sell well.

There is a new story of the Legion Of Super-Heroes in the works for Superboy. Meantime Murray Boltinoff is continuing the reprint series. The story is by Cary Bates.

There's a Hop Harrigan reprint in the 152nd issue of GI Combat. The title is "Psalm For A K-Ration".

There's a very interesting story coming up in the third issue of Weird War Tales. The title is "The Pool" and it took a year to draw. Script by Wein and Wolfman, art by Heath. And well worth looking at.

In the current Forever People Sandman takes on Thor! See the Coming Comics section.

New Gods 7 tells the story of how Highfather and Darkseid traded sons; or in other words the origins of Orion and Mister Miracle. The issue of Forever People on sale at the same time is supposed to be the best art job that Kirby has handed in yet.

The last reprint of Manhunter will be in issue number 11 of The New Gods. A replacement has not been chosen yet because there really isn't one! The only material remaining is Green Arrow and Challangers (for a combination of reasons material in the four Kirby books must be drawn by Jack. And financial reasons eliminate new stuff.) and quite a lot of that has been reprinted already. Ah, the dilemas of editors.

Sugar And Spike has been cancelled in its four-color format but will return as a digest sometime in the future.

Spirit World 2 has been held up until futher notice. (The above is a quote from a memorandum) Have I heard that song somewhere before?

Mike Royer takes over the inking of Jimmy Olsen with number 146. This Continued on the next page...

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2, 3, 4 - 20¢ each.

The number in the corner of your mailing label is the last issue of your sub.

will also cause the abscence of those Anderson touch-ups which were done at Coletta's request.

Dubblex (the first DNAlien) and Terry Dean (Jimmy's new romantic interest will play major roles in Olsen 144-146.

Rich Buckler has done some work for the Robin strip and is continuing his work on The Rose And The Thorn.

Super-Spectacular News:

Batman (DC-8)- cover is a wrap around job by Neal Adams with all the featured heroes sans the old Atom in a bat-shaped shadow. Batman in: "Masterminds Of Crime" and "Mister Roulette's Greatest Gamble" from Batman 70 and 75. "The Doom Patrol" origin story from My Greatest Adventure 80. The Legion in "The Legion Of Super-Outlaws" from Adventure 324. Plastic Man tracks down The Eel in the sequel to Woozy Winks' origin story. The Golden Age Atom in an unpublished story: "Danger In The Totem's Eye". Sargon The Sorcerer with art by Joe Kubert. And finally, Aquaman in "The Aqua-Thief Of The Seven Seas".

Supergirl (DC-10)- Supergirl removes her parents from the Survival Zone in one story whose title I forget and the other one is "Black Magic Of Supergirl". Also a 36-page reprint of a Wonder Woman story featuring 8 of her greatest foes. The true bonus of the book is Johnny Thunder in "The Black Canary".

Flash (DC-11)- Probably featuring 2 Flash stories, a Kid Flash, a Johnny Thunder, a Quicksilver (from Quality), and maybe an unpublished old Flash.

There may be some Black Canary reprints in Wonder Woman.

REVISIONS ON LAST ISSUES NEWS OF TARZAN:

TARZAN will be monthly, the first issue (numbered 1) will be out probably in March. The lead story is a 26 page Joe Kubert story of Tarzan. The book is filled out by an 8-page John Carter Of Mars story currently being written by Marv Wolfman and illustrated by Murphy Anderson.

KORAK will be bi-monthly, its first issue will follow Tarzan by 1 month and will also be numbered from 1. The lead will be an 18-page Korak written by Len Wein with art by Frank Thorne and an-as-yet-unchosen inker. There will also be a 10-page David Innes Of Pellucidar story written by Len Wein and drawn by Alan Weiss and Tony DiZuniga. Filling out the book will be a 9-page Carson Of Venus strip with adaptations by Mark Hanerfeld, script by Len Wein, and art by Mike Kaluta.

BOTH BOOKS will feature adaptations of Burrough's material chronologically in order. The only strip with new plots is Korak. Oh yes...the mags will not tell the stories on a 1 ish/1 book basis, they will take all the time necessary.

Naturally, things change oftimes between the thought and the deed. However, as of today, Sept. 14, this stuff is 100% accurate.

Phantom Stranger will feature a team-up of the Stranger and Dr. 13 in number 19 or 20 running 26 pages.

Steve Skeates has written a Supergirl story for publication in the near future.

I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT AS OF ETCERA 9 OR 10,(I'M NOT SURE OF WHICH),

ETCETERA & T.C.R.

ETCETERA, FANDOM'S FASTEST RISING NEWSLETTER, AND THE COMIC READER, THE OLDEST NEWSZINE OF ALL, WILL BE PUBLISHED AS ONE MAGAZINE!

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO BOTH WILL BE HONORED (ON A PRO-RATED BASIS).

THE MAGAZINE'S OFFICIAL TITLE WILL REMAIN ETCETERA BUT A T.C.R. LOGO OF SOME SORT WILL BECOME A SUBHEADING.

I (PAUL LEVITZ) WILL REMAIN THE EDITOR AND ALL THE OLD ETC FEATURES WILL BE A VITAL PART OF THE MAG. SEE YOU NEXT MONTH...

There will be 1 new Vigilante story in Adventure (10-pg) and then 2 Black Canary originals of 8-pgs each. They will follow the Zatanna series which has been moved to up to run in 413-415.

Mike Friedrich is assisting Julie Schwartz.

Jonny Double will be Wonder Woman's new boyfriend (for a while at least) and is also slotted for a guest-starring appearence in Supergirl's strip.

NOTE TO AVOID CONFUSION: There will be volume numbers on DC's mags soon. They have no relation to the normal numbers and merely indicate how many years that book has been published. This is because of postal regulation changes or some such.

All-Star Western will begin a new series called Jonah Hex by John Albano and Tony DiZuniga. The ad for it is reproduced below (I hope. If there's GL/GA covers instead you'll now printing difficulties intervened). The series will begin in issue 10 which will also begin anew El Diablo. The story for no. 10 is a leftover from the last time around (art by Morrow) but starting in no.11 the strip gets a new direction from Len Wein. If mail response to Bat Lash is good there may be original material of him from number 13 on.

Mike Fleisher (you know, the guy who wrote the comic book encyclopeadia) has written a three page text story from Sinister House...3. That issue will also feature a 36 page Toth story.

Wally Wood has done 2 new stories for DC's weirdbooks. One is in House Of Secrets 96, the other in Mystery 199. Both out in December.

LOOK FOR: PHANTOM STRANGER 17 (out in November). The lead is a book-length Phantom Stranger story. Not a weird story in which he happens to appear but a genuine, authentic story about him and his new girlfriend. A true gothic love story. The coloring is a prime feature of this book too (by Tatiana Wood). Note pg21 please.

REPRINT NEWS (?):

Superman - The two-part Muto/future Supey story is coming up, then another oldie.

Detective - Roy Raymond, Capt. Compass, plus Gangbusters stories.

Batman - 1943 Christmas story!

World's Finest - Bureau Of Missing Villians: The first fight between Batman and Tweedldum & Tweedledee.

JLA - the origin of Hourman plus a Wildcat story.

World's Finest team-ups are Superman-Doctor Fate, Superman-Hawkman, then a Superman-Green Arrow story which will tie up loose ends from GL/GA 87's solo GA story.

GL/GA 87 may be very late due to the loss of Adams' work on that ish. However it should be worth the wait.

Conway & Wein co-operated on a 7-pg mystery story. One wrote the odd numbered pages, one wrote the even, & both worked on the last page.

MARVEL NEWS FOLLOWS THE COMING COMICS SECTION.

HE'S WILD... HE'S SAVAGE... HE'S COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
ALL-STAR WESTERN
On Sale Dec. 7th
IT'S HIM?
MY GOD... THAT FACE!..
H-HE'S SOME KIND OF A FREAK!
WHUT THE BLAZES ARE ALL YOU HALF-WITTED MOUNTAIN GOATS A'STARING AT, HUH? IF EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU DON'T CLEAR OUTTA H'YAR FAST AH'LL—
JONAH HEX
WATCH FOR HIM!

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Coming Comics

Dates are not 100% accurate. Distributors often mess up the schedule.

THE FOREVER PEOPLE (6, January). The Forever People invade "Happyland" where all but Serifan get zapped by the "Omega Effect". Royer begins the inking with this issue. Reprint bonus: Sandman takes on a villain called Thor whose weapon is a hammer that shoots lightning bolts in "The Villain From Vahalla". On sale on October 5.

HOUSE OF SECRETS (95, January). "Creature" by John Albano and Don Heck. "And Things That Go Bump In The Night" by Wein and Sparling. "The Last Soceror" reprinted. "Phantom Of The Flames" (reprint). "The Bride Of Death" by Nestor Redondo. On sale on October 5.

OUR ARMY AT WAR (239, December). The cover is in this issue and that's all I know about it. It's hard to get run downs on the war books but Marv Wolfman has said he will keep track in the future so my listings should improve. On sale on October 5.

DC SUPER-SPECTACULAR (DC-7, January).
SUPERMAN (245,

Cover by Adams (not Wrap-Around style). Superman in the first Luthor-Brainiac team-up and "The Prankster's Greatest Role". The Atom in "The Time Trap" (the first appearance of Chronos). Hawkman in "The Super Motorized Menace" (art by Anderson, from Mystery In Space 89. "The Crowning Of Super-Chief" from All Star Western 117. A Kid Eternity story with art by Mac Raboy. And, last, but probably not least, Air Wave tracks down the murderer of the D.A. in "The Adventure Of The Shining Spooks" On sale on October 7. 100 pgs, 50¢.

ALL STAR WESTERN (9, January). This issue is all reprint material due to an accident but I don't think anyone will complain. Read on... Pow-Wow Smith by Infantino in "Menace Of The Floating Totem Pole". Buffalo Bill by Kubert in "Ambush of The Overland Stage". A 3-page Frazatta short: "The Town Jesse James Couldn't Rob". A 2-page story "The Fortune Nobody Wanted". Plus the first half of the origin of Bat Lash from number 6 of his mag with art by Cardy & Sekowsky. On sale on or about October 7.

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (99, January). Batman And The Flash team-up to battle "The Man Who Murdered The Past". Plus a Viking Prince reprint. On sale on or about October 7.

FALLING IN LOVE (127, December). On sale on October 7.

SUPERMAN (246, December). "Danger... Monster At Work" brings Len Wein to the Superman scripting chore. And he brings with him an old Jewish matchmaker neighbor of Clark Kent. Wild! Tales Of Krypton presents "Marriage... Kryptonian Style" with Jor-El and Lara. Reprinted from a 1946 Superman is "There Is No Superman." On sale on October 12.

WITCHING HOUR (18, January). "Satan Comes A Creeping". Oh...an intersting note. Murray Boltinoff phases out hosts in his weird books but Joe Orlando is finding the demand for them so great that there may be some Abel or Cain related stories. ????? On sale on October 12.

GI COMBAT (151, January). "Death Awaits Beyond This Point" for The Haunted Tank crew. On sale on October 12.

YOUNG ROMANCE (177, December). On sale on October 12.

THE NEW GODS (6, January). Lightray comes to Earth to join Orion in a fight to the death with the remaining members of the Deep Six. The title is "The Glory Boat". Reprinted is Manhunter battles "Mister Meek". On sale on October 14.

SINISTER HOUSE OF SECRET LOVE (2, January). "To Wed The Devil", a very special story with plot by Joe Orlando, script by Len Wein, and art by Tony DiZuniga. The story runs 36 normal pages plus 3 pages of illustrated text

the BRAVE and the BOLD
BATMAN AND the FLASH
KILL ME BEFORE THE PERSON IN MY MASK DIES!
NO HE'S LYING!
"The MAN WHO MURDERED THE PAST"
plus the VIKING PRINCE

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epilog. On sale on October 14.

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (197, December). "Ghost Ship" by Jack Oleck and Jack Sparling is the cover story. "I Wish I May...I Wish I Might" by Len Wein, Dick Dillin, and Giacoia. "House Of Horros" by Oleck and Redondo. Reprints in this issue are "Mister Mortem" and "Guardian Of The Past". On sale on October 14.

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (160, January). The Unknown Soldier captured in the orient. Plus a reprint of Balloon Buster in "Brother Enemy". On sale on October 14.

JIMMY OLSEN (144, December). "A Big Thing In A Deep Scottish Lake" is the first of three issues with Jimmy and the Newsboy Legion investigating a Loch Ness monster in Scotland. Meanwhile Superman, The Guardian, Dubblex, and Terry Dean share the action in Metropolis. The series concludes with the destruction of the Evil Factory. The monster in this story is an Evil Factory creation. The Newsboy Legion takes over the government of the city for a day in "Kings For A Day", the reprint filler. On sale on October 19.

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS (208, December). Superman teams up with Doctor Fate in "Peril Of The Planet Smashers" with a Zatanna cameo. Reprinted under the Bureau Of Missing Heroes banner is Robotman in "The Inside Story Of Robotman" and The Ghost Patrol in "The Spectacular Crimes" which is very early Infantino. On sale on October 19

FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN (14, January).

"Human Pet Of Gorilla Land", "I Delivered Mail From Mars" (early Mort Drucker), "Raiders Of The Waterless World", "The Planet Nobody Wanted", and "Secret Of The Dinosaur Skeleton".

YOUNG LOVE (90, December). On sale on October 19.

BATMAN (237, December). "The Night Of The Reaper" pits Batman against the Grim Reaper in DC's Rutland Halloween story with a plethora of real guest stars. The story is book-length and features Robin. The reprint is from Detective 37 (March 40) and is Batman in his final solo appearance of the golden age. On sale on October 21.

GREEN LANTERN / GREEN ARROW (87, January). "Beware My Power!" stars Green Lantern and a new, black member of the Green Lantern corps. The Green Arrow story is done from pencils and is the first story by Elliot Maggin. "What Can One Man Do?" tells how GA runs for mayor of Star City. The reprint is "Earth's First Green Lantern", featuring Abin Sur in his last adventure. On sale on October 21.

HEART THROBS (136, December). On sale on October 21.

THE UNEXPECTED (130, December). "One False Step", "Murder Spree", "Dig The Gruesome Groupies", "Death Mast", and "Ghost Who Laughed At Locks". On sale on October 21.

==========NOTE: B&B 99 is by Haney, Brown, and Cardy.

LOIS LANE (117, December). "SOS From Tomorrow" Superman and Lois Lane find a note in a bottle dated 225 years in the future and naturally they investigate it. Rich Buckler's first Thorn art job is "The Ghost With Two Faces" with inks by Giordano. The reprint is an Infantino Lady Danger-- "The Needle In The Haystack".

THE FLASH (211, December). "Flashing Wheels", a Roller Derby story. Kid Flash in "Is This Poison Legal?". Reprinted is "The Rival Flash" starring the old Flash from Flash 104. The story includes a detailled origin recap. On sale on Oct. 26.

JLA (95, December). "The Private War Of Johnny Dune" begins as a black vetern returns from Vietnam. Plus the origins of Dr Mid-Nite (from All-American25) and Dr Fate (from More Fun 67). On sale on October 26.

GIRLS LOVE STORIES (164, December). On sale on October 26.

DETECTIVE COMICS (418, December). Batman in "And Be A Villain", the long-awaited return of The Creeper. Batgirl begins a two-part Godfather type story with "The Kingpin Is Dead". Reprints are Seirra Smith in "Case Of The Terrified Tenderfoot" from Dale Evens 1 and an unsolved mystery from Gangbusters. On sale on Oct. 28.

ADVENTURE COMICS (413, December). Supergirl in "The Walking Bombs". She gets a new costume in this ish but reverts back to the one in the circle-logo forever after starting next ish. Art by Saaf & Oskner. Reprinted is Hawkman in "Earth's Impossible Day" with art by Kubert and the shortest super-hero story ever, a 4pg, 21 panel Robotman-"The Robot Ghost". Also part 1 of Zatanna in "Demon's Pawn" by Wein and Morrow. On sale on October 28.

ACTION COMICS (407, December). Superman in "Fiend In The Fortress Of Solitude" and "Planet Of Prey". The reprint filler is the concluding half of The Atom/Flash team-up from B&B. On sale on October 28.

GL/GA 87 may be a reprint issue instead of the one I listed. This is due to Adams' trouble with the material. This item, however, is tentative and unconfirmed.

==========

MARVEL

Dracula will be out in November.

Conan will be bi-monthly for a while, at least, beginning with number 12.

Lee has resumed his writing chores on FF and Spidey. The FF had 5 issues by filler writers, Spidey 4.

Sal Buscema has done 2 or 3 Capt. America stories then Gil Kane takes over the art while Romita returns to Spider-Man.

Marvel is planning two or three new titles for release in January or February but will not release details yet.

The Outlaw Kid book has been dropped for lack of material after 9 issues. However material about that character will still be reprinted in Western Gunfighters along with Black Rider (no longer called Black Mask) and the Apache Kid. Reprints start in issue 8.

Neal Adams did a total of 4 Avengers stories and probably will not do Ka-Zar (a fact I reported in my famous missing issue). Rich Buckler did an Avengers story wich will appear in the spring.

A new series of Beast adventures begins in Amazing Adventures 11 displacing The Inhumans.

Ole friend Him from FF and Thor will get his own series in Marvel Premiere.

(_Some of the above news is from Newfangles. Thanx, D & M._)

SKYWALD

Skywald is not dead! The following books are:Crime Machine, SF Odyssey, and Hell Rider; and the comics are in doubtful shape but Nightmare and Psycho remain.

Coming Comics

AMAZING ADVENTURES 10. The Inhumans in their last predictable solo appearance: "The Universe Machine". This pits them against Magneto and something called the Trikon. Art by Sekowsky.

THE AVENGERS 95. The Avengers take on the Mandroids, SHIELD, and The Inhumans in one 20+ page Adams story. This is part 7 of 8 in the Kree series.

CAPTAIN AMERICA 145. Cap and Sharon (along with SHIELD's new Femme Force) are skyjacked.

CONAN - No issue this month, tis now bi-monthly.

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE 15.

DAREDEVIL 82. The Black Widow accused of murdering the Scorpion? Plus Foggy under the spell of the Assasin.

FANTASTIC FOUR 118. I believe this issue will continue featuring Crystal.

THE HULK 147. The Leader ruling over a disaster torn Earth? Why not?

IRON MAN 44. The return of the Night Phantom! Plus Ant-Man versus the Scarlet Beetle in a 9-page original filler.

KID COLT, OUTLAW 157.

MARVEL FEATURE 2. The Defenders (Doc Strange, Subby, and The Hulk) take on The Dread Dormammu in Marvel's Rutland/Halloween story.

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS 34. The FF in "Those Who Would Destroy Us" and "Beware The Hidden Land". Plus The Torch and The Thing in "The Terrible Toys".

MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN 16. Still Kid Colt, 2-Gun Kid, and Rawhide Kid.

MY LOVE 15.

RAWHIDE KID 95.

RINGO KID 13.

SGT. FURY 94. Original material is due for this ish.

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION 4. Thor and Hercules starring in "Whom The Gods Would Destroy", "The Hammer And The Holocaust",&"The Power Of Pluto".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11...

ETC.

Okay--it's explination time. Etcetera 7 got messed up in the process of being printed so it never got to you. If I received it by the time I got this ish back from the printers than you're holding both in your hands. If not, you'll get it very soon after I do. However, it won't count on your sub! A stale newszine is of no value and I will not charge anyone for it. Subs are being extended by 1 ish all round to cover. Fair?

Now onto the features dept. As you'll note DC cover repros are back. This time they're here to stay. New features: Jēch Spake, Jeff Wasserman's new irregular series of reports and comments; and, coming soon: Fanzine Index by John McGeehan, Duffy's Tavern by Duffy Vohland, and a piece or two by Marty Pasko. F.Index will have changed though, since its last appearance in The Comic Reader. It'll be a bit shorter and without (probably) a numerical rating system. As soon as John has the time it will expand.

PK's resigned his Reviews column again. Hmmm...he's really getting to be a fly-by-night. Anyone out there interested in replacing him (because I really am not)?

As you'll note this ish is digest size again. I think that I'll stop playing merry-go-round with my sizes (and printers) for a while and stay like this for a few issues. Here's hopin'!

Generalized gab: I'm doing the zine tables at Creation and the Phase gang is probably doing the program book. Beginning to sound like a rerun of July 4. Oh yes...the deadline for dealers' tables has been changed to November 1. If you come please look me up and gab a while...that's the best part of a con.

As I don't have a copy of Etc 7 I don't know who I've thanked for plugs so I'll play safe and run thru again: Don & Maggie once more from Newfangles, the triad of men behind George, and Ed Murray in Vertigo. The news-lead thank yous are the same as usual..just look them up in your back issues (WHAT! YOU MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE BACK ISSUES OF ETC? Well, turn to page 1 and order them by all means. Under 10 copies of the first issue are left in stock!).

Till next month, Paul

REVIEW: DC SPECIAL

DC Special was a fine lead-off issue. It reprinted the first "New Look" Batman, a classic Flash story, an early Adam Strange story (before the series of Adam reprints began), and a Strange Sports Story under the "All-Infantino" banner. Oh yes, there was also a Detective Chimp short. The premise of the book was to reprint material not usually found in annuals but material which would sell.

The second issue was devoted to the cancelled DC teen strips -- Binky, Buzzy, Candy, Melvin, and Harvey. I suppose it was the best that could have been done under that format but I still felt it was a wasted issue.

The third issue went under an "All-Girl" banner and featured two gems--unpublished Golden Age stories of Wonder Woman and Black Canary. The book was filled out with a Supergirl reprint, a combination sf/romance story, and the first story of Star Sapphire from Green Lantern. A nice issue solely because of the twin gems.

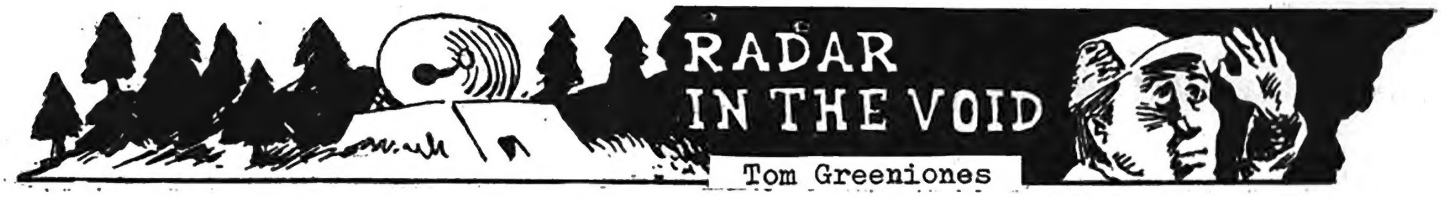
Number four introduced a new technique, continuity. All the DC weird-book hosts were featured telling a baker's dozen of their stories (all reprint). There had been no reprints of mystery stories up till then so the book served a purpose. Still, I prefer something like number five's...

"The Secret Lives Of Joe Kubert", which reprinted a Sgt. Rock story (very fitting), a nice western story from Showcase 2, one of his Hawkman classics, and a story of The Viking Prince. Plus a bonus 4-page original filler on Kubert himself.

Number six reprinted DC's western line-up, one of the bulwarks of their entire company in the fifties. Included were: Daniel Boone, Tomahawk (natch), Davy Crockett, Kit Carson, Buffalo Bill, and Pow-Wow Smith. Not bad, since All Star Western wasn't around then.

Issue 7 was the first of three devoted to the Strange Sports Stories which ran in Brave And Bold 45-49. Four of those stories were included plus a short sf/sports story from Mystery In Space. All the art was by Infantino. The second ish of this type was no. 9 which included an additional four

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWELVE...



Though Neal Adams and Rich Corben are firmly established as fan favorites they actually make little difference in comic sales. For the time accept that Corben and Adams have strong similarities. The fact that Neal's work on Deadman and Brave And Bold caused only slight increases in sales and in Spectre and X-Men caused a drop in sales is bad news to editors and publishers whose main interest is to move books. Rich's work in 25¢ comics would do no better.

Pro comics are commercial art -- That means artwork and copy must appeal to and be understood by the majority of the markey. The majority of comic buyers are 9-14 years old. So?

Within pro comics different levels are worked on. I see three distinct levels of imagination that are an attempt to divide and conquer the market. Divided into three main age groupings, the levels are based on how each group perceives the world it lives in. Each level tries to recreate the imaginative vision of each group.

Dan Spiegle represents work geared to young children. He keeps his conceptions simple using line primarily, with very conven ional figures and panel breakdown, avoiding too much detail. He tries to approximate a child's level of comprehension. Aspects of the world like legal processes, naturalistic detail, or psychology of personality are far beyond children.

Marvel is the next plateau of sophistication. They embody the adolescent's view of the world. Identity conflicts, the drive for status, the love of fighting for its own sake, and the metropolitan city become relevant elements. However most teenagers share the image of comics as kid's stuff and are deathly senisitive to being associated with things their peers consider childish. To overcome the self concious anxiety of his readers about enjoying Marvel's slapstick fight scenes, Stan Lee injected this very thinking into his characters. Spidey, DD, etc in effect assure the reader it's OK, to not take the plot too seriously 'cause they, the heroes, certainly aren't. This wisecracking adolescent approach to to comics is a major reason why Lee has been unable to produce more serious efforts. Teenagers aren't required to take on real responsability.

The next level is represented by photography, symbolizing mature acceptance of the world the way it is and willingness to deal with it like an adult. The only two artists who deal with this level to me are Adams and Corben. But to understand their work requires a familarity with reality, its processes and nuances, and also what movies have taught us about seeing.

To assume that buyers in the 9-14 age group can or want to see that way is wrong. To say, well, its GOOD for them to be exposed to this, is trying to force a development on them that comes only with time and experience. Kids have too little time for childhood now. And trying to pass adulthood off to them as fantasy or as style is useless cause the kids just don't have those type of fantasies yet.

Rich has avoided the bind of working for NY pro mags, turned his back on the money, and kept his freedom. Neal's case is more tragic. His heroic acceptance of reality per se can only creatw insoluble paradoxes when applied to the world of tall tales and day dreams that super-heroes exist in. Hopefully he will get a chance to be fully employed at some time.

What you can do to help is to help create the adult market for comics. Grownups are waiting for the stamp of authority on comics before they will reverse their predjudices and join the fun. The article in the New York Times Magazine of May 2 includes the most astute feature by the press yet on what's happening in comics. Show that to your parents, then follow it up with an issue of GL/GA. They may even enjoy them. At least they will respect it, and that's all we ask.

Editor's Note: Last ish I promised to check out who colored the GL/GA drug book... well Adams himself did.

Jāch Spake

Metro Con 71 Report

by Jeffrey H. Wasserman

Friday morning, August 14, found me and friend Bob Zimmerman en route to the nation's captial for a weekend of convention-going, the 1971 Metro Comic Art Convention.

The location was The Washington D.C. Statler-Hilton. This branch of the Hilton empire is by no means similar to its New York counterpart. The D.C. S-H is not the bustling, crowded type of hotel. Lobbies are not without empty seats and elevator cars manage to travel the entire height of the hotel (14 floors) and not be hailed by another person.

The convention took up the entire second floor, a total of ten rooms. The amount of space available was incredible. The huge hallways between the many con rooms were lined with dozens of couches, lounging chairs and tables, as if the room set up as the convention's lounge didn't all ready hold enough.

That Friday afternoon, the convention area was set up. Dealers moved in, pro's checked into their rooms and the art gallery was arranged in the exhibition room. In actuality, the convention had all ready begun. Fans walked about the con areas, dealers did a brisk business and many discussions were to be had with fan and professional alike. It looked as if Metro would be a staggering success.

Saturday morning dawned late for me. When I finally got up, I went to the con area and registered. The convention was to a slow start. There didn't seem to be more than two hundred present. And I was right.

The Keynote Address was delivered late by Denny O'Neil who looked as if he was bombed the night before. He was. Prevailing over his befuddled condition (I should have said, 'Prevailing over his hang over...'), Denny delivered an excellent speech, discussing the comics' current trend and their foreseeable future of hard times. At one point, he related his idea for a new DC 'Drug book'. It would run as follows: Superman tries some dope, retches at the bad taste, and then flies erringly to his Fortress Of Solitude. Entering sans the gigantic arrow/key via a wall, he stumbles about. Deciding to quench his voracious thirst, the Man of Steel up-ends the bottle containing the city of Kandor and drinks it!

The Radio Room was stocked with many fine old recordings. Unfortuneately, no one wanted to take out time and sit down and listen to the sound of yesteryear. The fact that Mike Catron overslept and didn't open the room for half of the second day only hurt matters further.

And then there was the big question: Where was Frank Frazetta? Frazetta was to be the Guest of Honor and his luncheon was at 1:30 that day; Saturday the 14th. Now Frank almost never attends cons, even the ones he agrees to! A few hurried phone calls to his Brooklyn home informed the convention staff that Frazetta couldn't make the luncheon and would first arrive Sunday. And so the ridiculous transpired: a banquet luncheon with out a Guest Of Honor. Frank did show up Sunday, with his many Conan paperback cover paintings. These went on exhibition in the room adjoining the Fantucchio exhibit. Don't feel bad though, Gary, Frazetta didn't show up at all for this year's Dallascon.

The convention's version of the dating game was hilarious, with the contestants giving their prospective date a good run for their money. Of the three contestants, I can only remember one name: Berni Wrightson. Their date was so glamerous her name escapes me. Berni didn't win, though.

I wasn't interested in watching any of the movies, so I wandered around the con area, talking to Con Chairman Gary Groth and Tony Isabella. Later, I retired to my room as roommate Zimmerman perused the films. Shortly after 2 AM, Bob came up to the room. Inquiring as to why he didn't stay for all the films, I was told that convention contract with the S-H was only up until 2 AM each morning. The lights were turned on in the middle of Journey To The Far Side Of The Sun, and only those who knew that Mark Hanerfeld had...

CON'T ON PG. 11

FANZINE reviews

ABSOLUTE ZERO 4-5. As a newszine -273°C never got off the ground. It had a little too much of its news taken from other mags. This issue, however, announces the fact that the mag is switching to a fan-oriented pub with fan news and letter col discussions. Hmm...I wonder if my letter sugesting that had anything to do with the change? Anyway, order number 6 from Scott Harris, 3056 Ann Street, Baldwin, NY 11510. Cost per isk is 20¢.

COMIC FANDOM MONTHLY 1. This mag is good fanzine of three or four years ago, slightly updated. The contents are discussions of current comics, sf books, and trends in fandom by a number of regular and irregular zine contributors. The only problem with this mag is the price...50¢. While in all probability you are not paying too much from the point of view of what editor Joe Brancatelli shells out for printing and so forth it still seems to me to be a little too much to pay for an opinion mag. Perhaps future issues will bring more varied material... meantime, if you want to buy a copy the address is: 2016 East 23 St., Bklyn, NY 11229.

NEWFANGLES is the last surviving news mag of the old school. News is liberally interspaced with tons of personal opinion. However news is quite often news in this mag, surprising just about everybody. They have announced their last issue to be the one for December and if you want to get the last 4 copies it'll cost you a grand total of 80¢. Order from Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060.

FANZINE NEWS FROM ACQUACKANONK PRODUCTIONS: ACQ. takes over True Fan Adventure Thature after number 7 and is working on a black & white stripzine named Hellfire due out in about a year. Hellfire will be 60 pages with a color wrap-around cover.

The above Fanzine stuff is courtesy of ye editor.

TRIVIA

Instead of scattering trivial items all over Etcetera I'm going to start saving them up and printing them here every now and then. Got an interesting item? Send it on in.

Neal Adams had his case with a batch of his work stolen from him on the subway here in New York back on August 25. He managed to make up all the stuff but he was working at an amazing pace. And the results are strange too--one ish of The Avengers will have three or four different inkers involved.

I guess everyone noticed that DC has started running "classified" advertisements. However, did everybody notice that they switched advertising managers after at least 25 years?

Marvel posters, puzzles, and greeting cards have come out. Posters are blacklight jobs starring single heroes and go for about two dollars. The puzzles feature various scenes, including one from Avengers 1 or so. The greeting cards just have fully and corectly colored pictures (without dialogue) on slick heavy stock. They have no message inside and thus are very handy. The cost, I believe, is 35¢ each. The posters and the greeting cards are by the Third Eye.

The Rolling Stone had an interesting "behind-the-scenes" look at Marvel by Robin Green. The issue was Sept. 16 and the price was 60¢. If you still can pick it up.

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PROZINE REVIEW: KIRBY PORTFOLIO

The mag consists of a short bio of Jack Kirby, details of his career, and a batch of illustrations tracing his career from 1931 to today. A lot of the material is from his newspaper strips...practically none represents his prime days at Marvel Comics. That is the great fault of this publication. Only 6 pages out of 44 are related to his best. And $4 for Kirby's lesser stuff is a little too much. This mag can be ordered from: PO Box 336, Newbury Park, Ca. The "company" name is Communications Unlimited.

Jach Spake continued from page 9.

commandeered the projector and was watching the rest of it in Wrightson's room.

The schedule for Sunday was rearranged completely, making room for a closed meeting between Frazetta and those who went to his luncheon.

There was a panel on Sunday with Denny O'Neil, Berni Wrightson, Ted White, Gerry Conway, Len Wein, Mark Hanerfeld and others (hmm...was that a panel or an ACBA meeting, Jeff?), who all discussed getting into pro-dom and the difficulties thereof. The draw-in followed afterwards.

And now a resume of this year's Metro Convention (ecery event has been mentioned here except for the auctions and the Frazetta talk): It was one huge disappointment. Frazetta showed up late, contracts weren't clearly defined (resulting in a black beauty contest coinciding with the pro's panel) and Gary Groth was an inexperienced convention chairman (what with only one convention under his belt). Add to the fact the faxt that only 200 fans registered for a con whose area rivaled that of the New York Comic Art Convention.

However, all cons start off poorly in their early years. Even the now spectacular New York Con held in July is no exception to the above rule.

With improvement, there must be change. Here are my suggestions:

1-The con should be held over a three day weekend.
2- The con area shouldn't be so wide open. Many people wandered into the con without paying.
3- The movies to be shown should be scheduled for a certain time and local advertising should be used to attract DCites.
4- The con should be advertised in the Washington Post or, better yet, Marvel or DC comics.

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FANZINE TID-BIT:

Ralph Alphonso did send me an apology a while after I reviewed QPSB 2-3 but I didn't get around to crediting him with it and stating that it seems to have resulted from a series of misconceptions so it's not really anyone's fault. And if you didn't read ETC 5 the above is irrelevant.

Marvel Coming Comics continued from page 6.

SPIDER-MAN 104. Concluding the saga of Gog, the monster (read that King Kong) of the Savage Land. Guest-starring Ka-Zar and Zabu.

SUB-MARINER 45. The attack of the Human Torch. Plus Llyra, Tiger Shark, and Capt. McKenzie.

THOR 195. Loki masters the secret of "The Well At World's End!" and the universe is in mortal danger again.

TWO GUN KID 102.

WHERE MONSTERS DWELL 13.

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LAST ISSUE:

It looks like ETC 7 will never come out so here's some of the news that I can remember:
DC Special cancelled with no.15///DC Super-Spectacular 9 will feature War stories including a pre-series Rock story, a Capt. Storm, a Haunted Tank, a Johnny Cloud, and possibly a Mlle. Marie (I'm not sure on the last one.). There's also a Kubert wrap-around cover and 5 pin-ups by Kubert.///Capt. Storm is due to die soon.///Irene Vartanoff and Mike Friedrich have sold some scripts for Lois Lane to DC which involve changing her entire life-style. They have been bought but they may not be used. The matter is under debate.// Marv Wolfman is assisting Joe Kubert.// Mark Hanerfeld has gotten official billing as an ass't editor. Congrats.///

Conan enters the mercenary stage of his life with no. 16. Meantime there is John Jake's story of the spider god (no. 13), and a two-parter by Micheal Moorcock. The story is Conan 12 was originally for Savage Tales 2. /// Dr. Doom will appear in a three-part Subby story with art by Colan. /// Barry Smith will take over The Avengers after Neal Adams leaves. /// Ka-Zar 10 is a book-lengther by Smith.

There was more but as I don't have a copy of it I can't remember it. I'm hoping to get my originals back and then I'll print any leftover news.

PEACE

REVIEWS continued from page 7

Infantino stories from B&B. The third and final go-round was in number 13. That issue contained theonly two stories from B&B which hadn't been reprinted plus sports-related s-f stories with art by Kane, Infantino, Sherman, and Toth.

DC Special 8 was the first of two issues under the banner "Wanted--The World's Most Dangerous Villains". The first featured a Superman/Batman, a Flash, a Green Lantern, and a Hawkman reprint. All the stories were well chosen from the point of view of picking villains for their infamy but none of the stories really needed to be reprinted in DC Special.

The second All-Villain issue was number 14 and it marked the first shrunken DC Special for, starting with this issue the mag was 48 pages instead of 64. This ish the reprints were of Superman, Batman, and The Flash. And all of them would have probably been reprinted in their respective giant annuals if not here so the issue was another write-off to me.

DC Special 10 marked the change from quarterly to bi-monthly. It featured eight police or gangbusters reprints and represented a return to the type of DC Special originally promised--unusual reprints. True, the issue was not great, but it represented a step in the right direction.

11 was another weird book, this time entitled "Beware...The Monsters Are ~~Coming~~ Here!". And it included several oldish stories and one all-too-new one, House Of Gargoyles.

12 was the prime DC Special. It reprinted three stories of The Viking Prince (from B&B 1, 5, and 16) with their splash pages redrawn by Joe Kubert, plus the origins of The Silent Knight and The Golden Gladiator (both from B&B 1), and an early Robin Hood story. This is what DC Special was born for!

The final issue of DC Special was number 15 -- Plastic Man. This also was a gem. Collected were 5 stories of Plas by Jack Cole from the Quality comics including his first appearance. Again the quintessence of DC Special.

And so all things must end...

ETCETERA 9 (NOVEMBER) will probably be out on the 20th of October and will include: Radar In The Void (Tom Greenhowes), Fanzine Index (John McGeehan), News, Coming Comics, Reviews, and either a Duffy's Tavern (Duffy Vohland) or an article by Martin Pasko. See you there...

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